

APPROVED - Feb 8, 2011

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 18, 2011 At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich-Carr, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Beri Kravitz, Christine Davidson-McCord, and David Zbarsky

Absent: Seth Adams, Donna Vincent Roa

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:33 pm by Chair Dighe

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed and Davidson-McCord moved and Palakovich-Carr seconded approval with one minor typo change (corrected on the final posted minutes). The Commission approved the minutes 7-0-0.

Environmental Literacy Proposal

Carr reported that there is a new proposal that amends the State Environmental Literacy program. The new proposal allows high school districts to substitute a science curriculum for the environmental program (as a graduation requirement). The environmental literacy initiative is unchanged regarding grades K-8. Comments on this new proposal are due to the State by February 3, 2011 and a public meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2011. The Commission intends to submit a comment and will circulate a draft letter during the last week of January.

Committee Reports

Watershed Protection

Due to the holidays, the Watershed Protection Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2011.

Sustainable Development and Energy

Due to the holidays, the Sustainable Development and Energy Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2011.

Outreach and Education

The Committee met on December 22 and discussed the following:

- The Committee reviewed and evaluated the City website and is developing a plan to improve the content and links between the environmental pages.

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- Work goes on to produce recycling magnets for Rockville residents. The draft graphic is ready. The cost is estimated at \$.25 each. The Committee is trying to determine how many to purchase and which priority neighborhoods to distribute the magnets to. The Committee is working on a similar non-magnet recycling handout to be printed in the City's graphic shop.
- The Committee wants to buy a table cover (with logo) to be used to improve the booth during public events.
- The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011.

All Committees should come to the next meeting with several proposed goals and objectives to achieve during calendar year 2011.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles reported on a variety of initiatives the City staff is working on including:

- Mark distributed materials describing the EPA Green Power Community Challenge program. Staff will be seeking a Mayor and Council resolution supporting the City's program application on Monday, February 28. Commissioners are invited to attend.
- We are still challenged to identify candidates for the current Commissioner vacancy. Commissioners are encouraged to approach neighbors, friends and colleagues.
- The Division will submit the request for Commission participation in Rockville's Science Day scheduled for April 10 at Montgomery College.
- Mark also described planned changes for Hometown Holidays and will pursue these in more detail with the City's event planners.
- An energy efficiency seminar for residents is planned for March, 2011.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville's City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**

Follow Up/Action Items:

None